

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church  
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,  
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY

13 November 2022

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 433 485 556 181

**INTROIT:**

Sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done wonderful things! His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

The LORD has made His salvation known. He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the family of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Be peaceful, shout with joy, and make music!

Make music to the LORD with a lyre, with a lyre and the sound of music; with trumpets and the sound of a horn. Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and everything in it, the world and those who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the mountains shout with joy together before the LORD. For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with justice.

Psalm 98

**COLLECT:** O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Spirit, that we may live and abide for ever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:**

Malachi 4:1-6 All who defy God and do wrong will be destroyed.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13 Do not become tired of doing good.

Luke 21:5-36 Patiently endure and you will gain your lives.

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today!*

Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.

Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com) or to the church office at [ddaelc@gmail.com](mailto:ddaelc@gmail.com).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

**Malachi 4:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> “For the day is certainly coming and will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant people and all the evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming will burn them up,” the LORD of hosts has said. “It will not leave them either a root or a branch.

<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings for you who fear My name. You will go out and frisk about like bull-calves from the stall.

<sup>3</sup> “Then you will crush wicked people underfoot. For, on the day that I am preparing, they will be ashes under the soles of your feet,” the LORD of hosts has said.

<sup>4</sup> “Remember the Law of My servant Moses, the Prescriptions and the Decisions that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel! <sup>5</sup> Look! I am sending you the prophet **Elijah** before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> He will **turn the hearts of fathers to their children** and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I shall come and strike the land with a ban of destruction.”

**2 Thessalonians 3:(1-5) 6-13**

<sup>1</sup> Finally, fellow-Christians, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be honoured, just as it has also with you, <sup>2</sup> and that we may be rescued from evil and wicked people! For not all have faith. <sup>3</sup> However, the Lord is faithful, will strengthen you and protect you from the Evil One. <sup>4</sup> We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you both are doing the things that we command and will continue to do them. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient endurance of Christ!

<sup>6</sup> We command you, fellow-Christians, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should keep away from any Christian who lives in a disorderly manner and not according to the tradition that you have received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not disorderly among you.

<sup>8</sup> Nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it but worked night and day, labouring and toiling, that we might not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> It is not that we do not have a right to receive support. However, we did it to give you an example, that you might imitate us. <sup>10</sup> For, even when we were with you, we gave you this instruction: “If anyone does not want to work, let him not eat, either!”

<sup>11</sup> For we hear that some are living in a disorderly manner among you, not doing any work but being busybodies. <sup>12</sup> We command such people and encourage them in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and eat their own bread. <sup>13</sup> As for you, fellow-Christians, do not become tired of doing good!

**Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)**

<sup>5</sup> Some were saying about the Temple, “It has been beautifully constructed with fine stones and decorated with beautiful gifts.”

Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left on another. Each one will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup> They asked Him, “Teacher, when will these things be, therefore. and what will be the miraculous sign when these things are about to happen?”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus said, “Be careful that you are not deceived! For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and ‘The time has come near.’ Do not follow them! <sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not become alarmed! For these things **must happen** first, but the end will not come immediately.”

<sup>10</sup> Then He told them, “One **nation will arise against** another **nation**. and one **kingdom against** another **kingdom**. <sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, famines, plagues in various places, terrifying sights and great miraculous signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “However, before all these things happen, people will lay their hands on you, persecute you and hand you over to synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of My name. <sup>13</sup> This will result in your giving witness to them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, make up your minds not to worry beforehand how to defend yourselves!

<sup>15</sup> For I shall give you such wisdom to utter that none of your enemies will be able to resist it or contradict it. <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless, even parents, brothers, relatives and friends will betray you and will put some of you to death.

<sup>17</sup> Because of My name all people will also hate you. <sup>18</sup> However, not a strand of hair on your heads will be lost. <sup>19</sup> Gain your lives by your patient endurance!

<sup>20</sup> “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near! <sup>21</sup> Then those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains. and those who are inside the city should leave it! Those who are in the country should not go into the city! <sup>22</sup> For these are the **days of vengeance**, that all the things in the Scriptures may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> How dreadful it will be for the women who are pregnant and for those who are breast-feeding in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath on this people. <sup>24</sup> They will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led away as prisoners among all the nations, and **the Gentiles will trample on Jerusalem** until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

<sup>25</sup> “There will be miraculous signs in the sun, the moon and the stars and, on the

earth, nations will be distressed and perplexed at **the roaring and tossing of the sea.** <sup>26</sup> People's hearts will fail them as they fearfully wait for the things that are coming on the world. For **the powers of the heavens** will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see **the Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads! For your redemption is coming near."

<sup>29</sup> Then He told a parable to them: "Look at the fig tree and all the other trees! <sup>30</sup> As soon as they put out their leaves, you see and know for yourselves that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near!

<sup>32</sup> "Truly, I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will certainly not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "However, be careful that your hearts do not become burdened with carousing, drunkenness and worries about this life or that day will come on you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like **a trap!** For it will come on all those **who live on the face of the whole earth.** <sup>36</sup> However, always be on the watch and pray that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and to stand before the Son of Man!"

## SIGNS OF THE END

### Sermon for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 2022

#### Luke 21:5-36

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our Gospel from before Luke 21:5-36: **Some were saying about the Temple, "It has been beautifully constructed with fine stones and decorated with beautiful gifts."**

Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left on another. Each one will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup> They asked Him, "Teacher, when will these things be, therefore, and what will be the miraculous sign when these things are about to happen?"

<sup>8</sup> Jesus said, "Be careful that you are not deceived! For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and 'The time has come near.' Do not follow them!

<sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not become alarmed! For these things must happen first, but the end will not come immediately."

<sup>10</sup> Then He told them, "One nation will arise against another nation. and one kingdom against another kingdom.

**<sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, famines, plagues in various places, terrifying sights and great miraculous signs from heaven.**

**<sup>12</sup> “However, before all these things happen, people will lay their hands on you, persecute you and hand you over to synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of My name. <sup>13</sup> This will result in your giving witness to them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, make up your minds not to worry beforehand how to defend yourselves! <sup>15</sup> For I shall give you such wisdom to utter that none of your enemies will be able to resist it or contradict it. <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless, even parents, brothers, relatives and friends will betray you and will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> Because of My name all people will also hate you. <sup>18</sup> However, not a strand of hair on your heads will be lost. <sup>19</sup> Gain your lives by your patient endurance!**

**<sup>20</sup> “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near! <sup>21</sup> Then those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city should leave it! Those who are in the country should not go into the city! <sup>22</sup> For these are the days of vengeance, that all the things in the Scriptures may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> How dreadful it will be for the women who are pregnant and for those who are breast-feeding in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath on this people. <sup>24</sup> They will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led away as prisoners among all the nations, and the Gentiles will trample on Jerusalem until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

**<sup>25</sup> “There will be miraculous signs in the sun, the moon and the stars and, on the earth, nations will be distressed and perplexed at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> People’s hearts will fail them as they fearfully wait for the things that are coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads! For your redemption is coming near.”**

**<sup>29</sup> Then He told a parable to them: “Look at the fig tree and all the other trees! <sup>30</sup> As soon as they put out their leaves, you see and know for yourselves that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near!**

**<sup>32</sup> “Truly, I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will certainly not pass away.**

**<sup>34</sup> “However, be careful that your hearts do not become burdened with carousing, drunkenness and worries about this life or that day will come on you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap! For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> However, always be on the watch and pray that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and to stand before the Son of Man!”**

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Last Tuesday evening was a total lunar eclipse - the first visible total lunar eclipse of the year. A lunar eclipse is when the sun, the earth and the moon align, allowing the moon to pass through the shadow cast by the earth. If you noticed that the moon appeared red, often called a “blood moon,” that was due to light being filtered through the earth’s atmosphere, as only red light can make it through the earth’s atmosphere since it’s got the longest wavelength. Shorter wavelengths like blue get scattered. Light becomes refracted, which means it gets bent towards the moon like a lens. So it lands on the moon’s surface, giving a red glow.

In our Gospel for today, Jesus talks about signs of the end times, and in His words, we find Him saying how “**the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**” “**There will be miraculous signs in the sun, the moon and the stars.**” So is this latest blood moon a sign that the end of the world is about to come upon us? Well, no, *not per se*. Of course, the end could come upon us tomorrow - it could come upon us later today - but the appearance of this blood moon is not a sure indicator. The fact that lunar eclipses have occurred in the past and nothing has happened shows that this type of phenomenon *is not definitive*.

But while a blood moon by itself is not a predictor of when the end will come, and Jesus will return, we should not therefore conclude that the end *is not coming*. It is. Our Lord Jesus will return, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. That will happen, and when it happens, we don’t know. But that it will happen - we do know with certainty, and there will be signs. The end of the world will be marked by spectacular signs causing people’s hearts to fail. “**Nations will be distressed and perplexed at the roaring and tossing of the sea.**” It will seem as if Creation is falling apart, and then the Son of Man will come in a cloud “**with power and great glory.**” His coming will not be in secret but like “*the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other*” (Luke 17:24). Indeed, there have been signs all along. Jesus tells us about them in our text for today, making the point that the signs are for us to be ready for His return and to take courage in the present.

Signs of the end. But which end? Jesus seems to be talking about two ends here in this chapter: one, the end of Jerusalem and the Temple; the other, about the end of the world. But there is a connection between the two. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, which occurred in the year 70, would serve as a perpetual warning and a small-scale version, if you will, of the end of the world that is still to come. In

both cases, the judgment comes against those who, in their stiff-necked unbelief, reject the only Saviour sent from heaven. But also, in both cases, Jesus alerts and encourages those who do trust in Him to hold on and remain vigilant, to not be misled or terrified, and to not give up hope when you see all the bad things that are happening. And so this is a message for us today.

Jesus was speaking to His disciples while they were in Jerusalem during Holy Week. As they were leaving the Temple, some admired how beautiful it was. They said, **“It has been beautifully constructed with fine stones and decorated with beautiful gifts.”** But Jesus told them, **“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left on another. Each one will be thrown down.”** These words got their attention, and so they asked Jesus, **“Teacher, when will these things be, therefore, and what will be the miraculous sign when these things are about to happen?”**

So, Jesus prepared them for the coming destruction of Jerusalem, which some of them would live to see about forty years later, and in this same discourse, our Lord also prepares us to remain steady and alert when we see signs of the world seemingly falling apart.

What are the signs that the end is coming? They are signs of a broken world that don't function as it ought, whether you're talking about nature, politics, religion, or whatever. Things are messed up and in serious need of fixing, and it will continue like that until the end. So don't despair! Don't give up hope! Things may look bleak, and they are bleak for this world as we know it. The end is coming, but that's because Jesus is coming again to fix and set everything right.

The signs of the end show us that, indeed, things are badly messed up. We see the signs in nature, in politics, and in religion. Let's look at these signs.

The signs in nature include **“earthquakes, famines, plagues in various places, terrifying sights and great miraculous signs from heaven.”** The world, the created order, *isn't working right*. Catastrophes and calamities show that this is so. Ever since our first parents fell into sin and were driven out of the garden, a curse has come upon the earth. Thorns and thistles come up among the crops, and working the earth becomes more difficult. The earth shakes, and mountains explode. Floods and droughts, fires and hurricanes devastate the planet. This old earth is coming apart at the seams. It's not going to last forever as it is. The Apostle Paul writes how *“creation has been groaning together with them and labouring with birth-pangs together with them until now”* (Romans 8:22). Creation yearns to be free from the change and death in its current state. Still, it's groaning as in the labouring of

childbirth may increase or subside in intensity and frequency until the end comes. So don't be alarmed. Jesus will come again and set everything right. The whole Creation will be renewed and restored, better than ever when Christ returns.

Signs in nature. Signs in politics. By that, we mean conflicts among the nations of this world. Jesus says we shall hear of “**wars and revolutions**,” but to not be terrified. Terrorism, as the term implies, would strike terror into our hearts. But we have a Saviour who is greater than all the jihadists seeking to blow us up or behead us. This Saviour, Jesus, speaks peace to our hearts. Whatever our enemies may attempt, *they cannot cut us off from Christ*. War will continue. “**One nation will arise against another nation, and one kingdom against another kingdom**,” but Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Don't expect the world to suddenly get all better and more peaceful just because of this election or that. It's never been that way, and it never will be. The chaos will continue until the coming of Christ. But when He comes, peace will prevail at last.

Signs in nature. Signs in politics. Signs in religion. One is the presence of false teachers. The other is the persecution of the church. False teachers will come, Jesus says, and they will try to lead you astray. Don't listen to them. “**Be careful that you are not deceived! For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and ‘The time has come near.’ Do not follow them!**”

The devil is at work to pull as many of us as possible away from the faith. False teachers arise and get a hearing, because they tell people what their itching ears want to hear.<sup>1</sup> They can sound so appealing. This is why we need to be thoroughly grounded in sound doctrine, so we can discern truth from error and not be led astray. There's not going to be a time when there are no more false teachers, not in this life. So we need to be prepared to recognise and hold fast to the truth.

Another sign of the end times is the persecution of the church. We're seeing it today. Whether the blood-red persecution of Christians in the Middle East or in Africa or the dull-grey oppression of the church here in Australia, the enemies of the Gospel are out to get us. They hate God, and they hate Christians. But that shouldn't surprise any of us. Christ is with us. Persecution is nothing new. It takes different forms. Sometimes it's localised and sometimes more widespread, but the persecution of the church has been going on since the beginning of the church. Jesus tells us, “**However, not a strand of hair on your heads will be lost.**”

---

<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 4:3



Why is that? Why will not “**a strand of hair on your heads... be lost**”? “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). Christ has won the victory over death and persecution and false teaching and wars and natural disasters. This is why we shall not perish. Our life has been tied to Christ. We believe in Him. We have been baptised in Him. We trust in Christ. And rightly so. *For Jesus has done everything we need so as not to fear those signs of the end.*

Jesus has taken the sting out of death for us by His death on the cross. There Jesus won our forgiveness by shedding His holy blood on our behalf. This cleanses us from our sins. Now there is no more barrier between God and us. The wages of sin is death, but when God’s own Son took that death for us and declared the job complete, what is left to condemn us? *Nothing.* What is left to terrify us? *Nothing.* And Jesus’ resurrection tells us that we have nothing to fear. Christ is risen, and we shall rise too. We have the sure hope of everlasting life in a renewed and restored Creation. So do not fear the signs of the end.

Indeed, these signs of the end are telling us that our Saviour is on the way! “**When these things begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads! For your redemption is coming near.**” Think of the joy that lies before us. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Rescue and redeem Your people! Set this world right! Give us the strength to endure all the calamities and catastrophes, all the upheaval and distress that is coming on this earth. Give us even joy in the midst of the ruins. Let your Word, let Your Gospel of hope go out from among us, and let our joy radiate to others.

Dear friends, as we look around at our crazy world, we see plenty of signs of the end. Heaven and earth as we know it will pass away, but the words of Jesus will never pass away.<sup>2</sup> Jesus assures us that we are His and that no one can snatch us out of His hand.<sup>3</sup> Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.<sup>4</sup> Signs of the end may abound and intensify, but these same signs point us ahead to the coming of our Lord. Christ is coming, and of His kingdom, there will be no end. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

---

<sup>2</sup> Luke 21:33

<sup>3</sup> John 10:28

<sup>4</sup> Romans 8:39

## PRAYER FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty God and Father, in wisdom You have made the world and all things, seen and unseen. We praise You for the gift of life, for the wonderful creation of our bodies, for our moral and spiritual capacities, and for the marvellous gifts of intelligence and reason. But, above all else, we thank and praise You for the gift of faith, by which we know You and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. We praise and worship Him for showing us Your great love by dying the death that enables sinners to live for ever. We praise You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to faith in Jesus, and has changed our hearts from rebellion against You to love and praise for You.

In mercy, pour out Your Spirit on us anew each day, so that our love, knowledge, and spiritual power may keep on growing, and our lives may be filled with the truly good qualities that only Jesus Christ can produce. Lead us by Your Spirit to love one another with brotherly love, and to forgive one another as You have forgiven us for Christ's sake.

Keep Your church in the true fellowship of the Gospel, that it may stand firm in the faith. Protect it against all its enemies, that it may serve You freely. We remember in particular those of Your children who are being persecuted because of their faith. Uphold them by Your Spirit, and give them patient endurance, that they may witness to Your saving power. Move those who oppress them to turn to You. Free Your people from all falsehood and error, and lead them along the road of truth and godliness.

Fill the leaders of the nations with Your light, and dispel the darkness of sin and spiritual ignorance. Lead people everywhere to enjoy peace and happiness as they learn to love and follow You. Give wisdom and strength to all in authority in our country, that they may serve according to Your direction, and our people may live in unity and uprightness. Frustrate the schemes of the wicked, and further the efforts of the godly.

Move parents to sow Your Word in the hearts of their children, that the young may be raised in the ways of Christ and live lives that are a blessing to church, country, and mankind. Give parents the understanding and patience they need for their God-given responsibilities.

Watch over the sick, the sad, and the troubled. Stand by them in their sufferings, and help them in all their burdens. Protect all who are in any danger of body or soul, and save them by Your wise love. Help us in all times of need to look to You for pardon, peace, and healing.

These, and all other things that we may need, give us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who, together with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Article: Trust in the Lord!**

From our Second Reading for today, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13, We read how Paul tells the congregation he planted in Thessalonica to pray that *"the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be honoured, just as it has also with you."* Paul commands that they pray because he knows that *"the Lord is faithful"* (v 3a). The Lord's desire and design for His children is to strengthen and protect them from *"the Evil One"* (v 3b), just as we

pray in the Lord's Prayer that we may be delivered from evil, or, more literally, from the Evil One. When Paul was wearied or perplexed or downtrodden or near death, he still had a loving Father and a Saviour whose atoning blood was shed for him. So do we.

We ought to have confidence in the Lord's faithfulness because His record is solid. Which of His promises has failed? The promise that the Seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head? The promise that in the Seed of Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed? The promise that death would not find anyone inside the homes on which the lambs' blood was smeared on the doorposts? The promise that the Virgin would conceive and bear a Son? The promise that the Holy One of God would not see corruption? Which of His divine and everlasting promises has failed? Not a single one! All the promises of God find in our Lord Jesus their Yes and their Amen to God's eternal glory!

His record is solid, and His faithfulness is sure. Not a single day in our life has been lived apart from His care and love. We may have always known that care and that love. We may not have always known or not always appreciated or not always cared about that care and that love. He did not take it from us. He never left us or forsook us. May the Lord direct our hearts to God's love so richly and eternally displayed in the cross of Jesus, where we see for ourselves how strongly His fatherly love has sought us! If God were anything other than a loving Father, He would not have sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for us, laying on the God-man's shoulders our sin, our complaining, our complaining, our fear, our cowardice, our indifference, our shallowness and pettiness. God did not count those trespasses against us but made peace by the blood of Jesus' cross so that we and Paul and all the saints might say together, *"Therefore, we have peace with God!"* (cf Rom 5:1).

Peace with a loving God will direct our hearts to the steadfastness of Christ. The world swirls and changes constantly. It did in Paul's day. It does in ours. We don't have to be confident that "it will all work out." We don't have to be confident that everything we ever wanted will someday fall into our lap. No such life is promised in the Bible, so we don't need to worry about the fact that it didn't happen. What is promised and seen in the Bible is that Jesus Christ is steadfast. Everything changes; everything comes and goes; the surest things and the surest friends are here today and gone tomorrow. Life fades like a dream, and all flesh is like grass, growing, fading, dying. But the Word of the Lord endures forever. The world will turn and change, but Christ is the same today, yesterday, and forever.

So we won't have a bad day or a bad week or a bad month or a bad year in which God is not our loving Father and Christ is not our steadfast Saviour. We won't face a little difficulty or a big bill or a temporary inconvenience or an accident that changes life forever without a Father who sees and knows our every need and a Brother who was Himself perfected through suffering. We shall not see a single sunrise without knowing the Father who has set the sun and the moon and the stars in the heavens and the Saviour who is fairer and brighter than the sun. Trust in the Lord!

**COMING SERVICES**

<b>20 November Last Sunday of the Church Year</b>	<b>27 November 1 Advent (Year A)</b>	<b>4 December 2 Advent</b>
9.30am AELC HC service at Bethlehem Toowoomba. Shared lunch and fellowship after service followed by a concert beginning at 12.30pm.	8.30am OAK LR (Harvest) 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am LOWOOD HC	10.00am HC & Downs Children's Christmas Service at Greenwood.  9.00am MARBURG LR
<b>Sunday, 20 November</b>		
READINGS: Malachi 3:13-18;                      Colossians 1:13-20;                      Luke 23:27-43		
HYMNS: 436 166 70 284 285 473		
<b>Sunday, 27 November</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5;                      Romans 13:8-14;                      Matthew 21:1-11		
HYMNS: 1 19 9 (839 290) 11		

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Saturday, 19 November, 10.00am. Combined COC/SEM COMMITTEE meeting at Toowoomba. Please make sure a representative from each congregation is present. Discussion will be held on Patrick Hensel's request to study for the ministry, so it is important each representative comes to the meeting with thoughts on support etc that has been made from within their own congregation.

Next Sunday, 20 November. Please bring something for a shared lunch and remember to place your collection in envelopes marked back to your own congregations. Loose collection for the day will go to the AELC treasury.

Sunday, 27 November, 6.30pm. Advent Tea at Aubigny. Could each family please provide a plate and something for dessert?

**NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDIES:**

Thursday 24, 10.00am. Lowood.

Friday 25, 7.30pm. Oak/Aub/Grn combined at Oakey.